

GEOGRAPHY OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY FINAL EXAM REVIEW

Review Questions from First Half of Course

1. What is time-space compression/convergence?
2. What is the friction of distance?
3. Who describes modern society as “risk society”?
4. What is unusual about the way modern society relates to risk?
5. Why do Americans prefer to believe reports that cell-phones are safe over reports that cell-phones are dangerous?
6. Using the example of cell-phones, discuss direct and indirect risks of technology.
7. How is medicine reflecting the process of time-space compression?
8. How can technology help people get over phobias?
9. What does the arachnophobia article suggest with regard to the debate over whether experiences in virtual space affect people’s actions and worldviews?
10. What are some applications of robotics in warfare?
11. How does the use of robotics raise moral questions in warfare?
12. Despite time-space compression and globalization, places still take on particular roles relative to the global economy.
 - a. Explain using the example of prescription drug sales.
 - b. Explain using the example of software production.
 - c. Explain using the example of Athens.
 - d. Explain using the example of Tokyo.
 - e. Explain using the example of Bangalore.
13. What are some applications of robotics:
 - a. In factories?
 - b. In the home?
 - c. In space?
 - d. In disaster sites?
14. Game and toys are usually seen as having no relation to military technology. Discuss the situation today using the example of “norns.”
15. How close are we to having autonomous battlefield vehicles?
16. In general, what characteristics of a job make it likely that people will try to develop robots to do it?
17. What are GMOs and how are they different from other organisms?
18. Why are some people concerned about the production of GMOs?
 - a. ecological reasons
 - b. social reasons
 - c. health reasons
 - d. economic reasons
 - e. moral/ethical/philosophical reasons
19. What is peculiar about the ownership of many kinds of GMOs?
20. Is it possible in the US to hold a patent on a life form?
21. What is nanotechnology?
22. What is the range of applications for nanotechnology that is currently envisioned at short, medium and long time scales?

23. Is there a federal agency that regulates nanotechnology to protect human and environmental safety?
24. What evidence suggests nano-scale products might have different effects on people and environments than conventionally-engineered products?
25. What are buckyballs and how does their presence in water affect aquatic life?
26. What is the difference between place and location?
27. How did the meaning of place change during the 20th century due to technology?
28. How can a favorable place image generate money for a country or city?
29. Why did the movie of *Entrapment* cause some consternation in Malaysia?
 - a. What are the technological elements of this situation?
30. How was history transformed into a money-making venture in Athens?
31. What aspects of Silicon Valley's business culture favored its economic development in the late 20th c.?
32. What aspects of Boston's business culture discouraged its economic development in the late 20th c.?
33. What are some important cities in Asia, aside from Tokyo?
 - a. Which of them is a city-state?
 - b. Which of them may or may not be in China, depending on who you ask?
 - c. Which of them covers the greatest land area?
34. How has technology shaped the tradition of the presidential debate?
35. How did the French view the re-election of George W. Bush:
 - a. In general (e.g. their preference)
 - b. As a sign of Americans being bad or evil?
 - c. As a sign of America being a country of contrasts and political divides?
36. What is the purpose of psy-ops (psychological operations) and what are the associated risks for the US?
 - a. How does rapid telecommunication and the Internet increase the risks for countries that carry out psy-ops?
37. Why did cartoons in the Danish newspaper Jyllands Posten become international news?
 - a. What caused this situation?
 - b. What have been some of the consequences in Europe, the US, the Middle East and North Africa?
38. Who is "Borat" and who is he mocking?
 - a. Why is he able to get away with this but would not be able to ridicule Arabs, Japanese, Africans, or many other groups?
 - b. Judging by the way people view old stereotypes of African Americans and Chinese, what will probably be the future opinion about Borat's humor?
 - c. What does this suggest about the "shrinking world"?
39. Give several examples of crimes in physical places that involved IT in some way.
 - a. How does IT assist in preventing such crimes?
40. Give several examples of crimes in virtual places that involved IT in some way.
41. What kinds of social relations can you maintain that would be limited or nonexistent without IT?

New Questions from Second Half of Course

42. What is tooting?
43. How does the tooting phenomenon reflect transformations of public and private space due to technological change?
44. What hidden feature of Grand Theft Auto can players hack into (to the concern of some media watchdog groups and congresspersons)?
45. What does this illustrate about key issues of risk and privacy?
46. What is the relationship between violent video game use and the occurrence of fights at school?
47. According to research by Gentile et al. what was the strongest predictor (most common characteristic) among students who had engaged in fights at school?
48. Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" during the Super Bowl led to self-censorship of what other television program?
49. How concerned are Americans about violence in the media relative to sex in the media?
50. What has gone wrong for a significant number of "mail-order brides"?
51. Roughly how many Internet marriage agencies are currently in existence and how many American men obtain foreign wives over the Internet?
52. Why is the question of *legal jurisdiction* a difficult one to settle in the case of Internet gambling?
53. How is it that 25% of the domain names for gambling websites show an address in the US although Internet gambling is illegal in the US?
54. What region is most popular for the location of offshore internet gambling operations associated with the US?
55. What is Google's justification for cooperating with the Chinese laws and self-censoring its google.cn site?
56. What measures has Google taken to make Chinese users of its site aware of the censorship imposed by their government?
57. What does this tell us about applying American ideals of free speech in other countries (opinion question)?
58. What is "elgoog" and how does China relate to its existence? (Hint: No, I didn't tell you in class; yes, reading FAQs is sometimes useful.)
59. What is the relationship between markets and regulation in the opinion of J.B. Winer?
60. What forms of regulation are less effective in Weiner's view?
61. What is the origin and meaning of the term "blog"?
62. What kinds of blogs exist and what age cohorts are their main creators?
63. Roughly how many blogs exist?
64. What role do blogs serve in early 21st century democratic society?
65. According to Adams & Ghose, what are the main ways geographers have understood new communication technologies?
66. What is "bridgespace" and what are its components?
67. What is the RIAA?
68. Why are many college students potentially at risk of being sued by the RIAA?
69. How have universities become tied up in this conflict of interests?
70. Imagine you are a lawyer hired by Jim Warner, a Milwaukee teenager sued by Warner Brothers for creating a website called www.warnerbro.com (as opposed to the

corporate website called www.warnerbros.com). What outcome would you tell your client to hope for?

71. What is the difference between m-commerce and e-commerce?
72. What differences between the information societies in Japan and the US have led one society to specialize in e-commerce and the other in m-commerce?
73. What years corresponded to the rise and fall of the dotcom industry?
74. Why were the dotcoms concentrated in certain places, and above all in Silicon Valley?
75. What is venture capital and how does it normally reduce the factor of risk in inherently risky investments?
76. How did the operation of venture capital change during the dotcom boom?
77. What lasting benefits of the dotcom boom can be identified?
78. Why has the cell phone been popular in Africa?
79. What unique social institutions (ways of cooperating and making economic deals) have arisen in Africa along with the cell phone?
80. Why are there more cell phones per person in the US than in most of Africa and South America?
81. Why are there *fewer* cell phones per person in the US than in Estonia, Greece, and Spain?
82. What are the key 3-G wireless applications?
83. How has Cleveland implemented the image of “digital city”?
84. What wireless applications (e.g. science, art, etc.) are being attempted in Cleveland?
85. What is the meaning of “diffusion”?
86. Describe hierarchical and reverse hierarchical diffusion and draw diagrams showing each.
87. According to Gorman and McIntee, what is rather encouraging about the diffusion of wireless infrastructure at this point among various American cities?
88. What is the digital divide and what is indicated about its future by Gorman and McIntee’s research?
89. What is the significance of Bangalore in the global information economy?
90. What part of China is poised to take Bangalore’s place (if we believe local enthusiasts)?
91. What is outsourcing and how does it differ from, and intersect with offshoring?
92. Why do companies engage in offshoring and/or outsourcing?
93. What are some promising and threatening visions of the impact of offshore outsourcing on the US?
94. What is telecommuting and why would people want to telecommute?
95. What impact does telecommuting have on volumes of vehicular traffic?
96. What are the various factors that influence the total proportion of the population that will telecommute on a given day?
97. Who hyped the idea of telecommuting with the term “electronic cottage”?
98. Why was it argued in class that telecommuting might actually *increase* the amount of vehicular travel people engage in on a monthly basis?
99. Despite the point noted above, what might be some benefits of telecommuting for society?
100. What is “infrastructure”?